

Message Text

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15

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SUBJECT: UNICEF ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE TIMOR

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE REGARDING UNICEF ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE TIMOR ISSUED BY UN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, DATED SEPTEMBER 23.
2. AT THE REQUEST OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) IS TO SUPPLY EMERGENCY SHELTER AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO REFUGEE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN IN INDONESIAN TIMOR. THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE SOME 32,000 REFUGEES FROM PORTUGUESE TIMOR -- 60 PER CENT OF THEM, CHILDREN AND MOTHERS.

THE UNICEF HELP REQUESTED BY INDONESIA INCLUDES TWENTY 300-WATT GENERATORS, TWENTY 10-MAN TENTS AND KEROSENE LANTERNS, 230 KEROSENE STOVES, 900 BOTTLES OF ANTI-MALARIAL MEDICINE, AND A VEHICLE. CHANNELLED THROUGH THE INDONESIAN RED CROSS, THE FIRST SHIPMENT WILL BE FLOWN TO KUPANG ON THURSDAY AND SENT TO THE BASE FOR RELIEF OPERATION IN THE ATAMBUA BORDER AREA.

A UNICEF OFFICIAL IS WITH MEMBERS OF A HUMANITARIAN TASK FORCE IN INDONESIAN TIMOR TO HELP ASSESS SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL NEEDS OF REFUGEE CHILDREN AND MOTHERS WHICH UNICEF MIGHT HELP MEET.

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MEANWHILE, A UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE HAS FLOWN TO DARWIN,
AUSTRALIA, TO MEET PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES BEFORE GOING TO
DILI, CAPITAL OF THE EASTERN HALF OF THE ISLAND, TO
EVALUATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NEEDS THERE.
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